

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A product repairing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a requesting user of a community of users for repairing a product;

if a replacement part necessary for said requested repair is in stock:

_____ selling a said replacement part to said requesting user in response to the request, ~~provided that the replacement part necessary for said requested repair is in stock; and~~
_____ providing to said requesting user said product repaired by using said replacement part; and

if the replacement part necessary for said requested repair is not in stock:

_____ retrieving a plurality of ~~repair subscribers~~ users having previously purchased said replacement part by means of a computer storing a subscribers user data base accumulating transaction history information on members of said community of users ~~on a group of repair subscribers, said plurality of repair subscribers forming a sub-group of said group of repair subscribers;~~

_____ selecting one of said ~~repair subscribers~~ plurality of users having previously purchased said replacement part, said selected user having quoted a price that does not exceed a ceiling quoted by said requesting user; ~~from among said retrieved plurality of repair subscribers; and~~

_____ procuring said replacement part from said selected user ~~one repair subscriber~~ having said replacement part, ~~provided that said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock; and~~

_____ repairing providing to said requesting user said product repaired by using said replacement part procured from said selected user.

2. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of procuring said replacement part from said selected ~~one repair subscriber~~ user includes the steps of:

receiving deposit ~~of the~~ of a price of said replacement part from said requesting user;
receiving consignment of said replacement part from said selected user ~~one repair subscriber~~;
supplying said replacement part to said requesting user; and
paying the price to said selected user ~~one repair subscriber~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, if said replacement part necessary for the requested repair is not in stock, the step of retrieving said plurality of users ~~repair subscribers~~ includes the steps of:

disclosing information on the possible procurement of said replacement part to said community of users ~~group of repair subscribers~~ by way of a web site; and
inputting information on the replacement part to be sold to said web site by any of said plurality of users ~~repair subscribers~~ having an intention of selling the replacement part.

4. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 3, wherein said information on the replacement part to be sold includes a suggested price at which said replacement part is to be sold and said ~~one selected user~~ repair subscriber is selected when the suggested price does not exceed an upper limit set by said requesting user and is the lowest among suggested prices input by said plurality of users ~~repair subscribers~~ having the ~~an~~ intention of selling the replacement part.

5. (Currently Amended) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein said request from said requesting user ~~for repairing the product~~ is received by way of a web site.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said replacement part is sold to said requesting user by way of a web site.

7. (Currently Amended) A product repairing apparatus comprising:

an input/output device connectable to a plurality of users ~~repair-subscribers~~, said input/output device having:

a repair reception section adapted to receive an input of a request for a repair of a product from a requesting user ~~one of said plurality of users repair-subscribers~~;

a replacement part sales section adapted to input/output information on a possible sale ~~of the~~ of a replacement part necessary for the requested repair to the requesting user, ~~repair-subscriber provided that~~ if the replacement part is in stock; and

a replacement part procuring section adapted to input/output information on a procurement of the replacement part from any of the plurality of users ~~repair-subscribers~~ other than ~~the one of said requesting user, plurality of repair-subscriber requesting the repair~~ provided that if the replacement part is not in stock; and

a memory device storing ~~information on said plurality of repair-subscribers~~ as a data base information regarding replacement parts previously purchased by each of said plurality of users.

8. (Currently amended) The product repairing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said input/output device has an escrow section adapted to receive consignment information of said replacement part input by members of said plurality of users ~~repair-subscribers~~ having an intention of selling the replacement part and also to receive deposit information of a price of said replacement part input by said ~~one requesting user repair-subscriber~~ in order to realize ~~the a~~ a sale/purchase of the replacement part ~~between said repair-subscribers~~.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The product repairing method according to claim 1, wherein, for a member of said community of users, said transaction history information comprises:

- contact information for said member;
- a quantity of each replacement part purchased by said member;
- a price said member paid to purchase each replacement part; and
- attempted procurements from said member that had failed because said member quoted a price that exceeded a ceiling quoted by said requesting user.